

In claim 20, lines 8 and 9, change "base hollow projection" to --spout--.

Please add new claims 21-24 as follows:

~~21.~~ A package comprising:

a collapsible pouch defined by at least two, opposing, flexible web portions that are sealed together adjacent an interior region which is unsealed and that are separated at a peripheral region to define an opening to the interior region; ✓

a fitment that (1) defines a dispensing passage, (2) is sealingly secured to said web portions along said opening, and (3) extends from said interior region through said opening; ✓

B1 a flexible valve that (A) is disposed within said fitment across said fitment dispensing passage, and (B) has a self-sealing slit which opens to permit flow therethrough in response to increased pressure on the side of said valve facing the interior of said pouch; and ✓

a removable cover on said pouch enclosing said fitment to define a hermetically sealed volume around said fitment over said opening.--✓

4
~~--22.~~ The package in accordance with claim ~~21~~⁵ in which said cover is (1) disposable, (2) formed as extensions of at least two of said pouch web portions, and (3) includes weakened, frangible regions along edges of said cover adjacent said pouch.--✓

1
~~--23.~~ The package in accordance with claim ~~22~~⁶ in which there are two of said pouch web portions; ✓

Serial No. 09/196,301 - - - 3

each of said pouch web portions has a generally rectangular configuration generally defining three right angle corners and one mitered corner; and
said fitment is disposed in said opening at said mitered corner. /

8
--24. The dispensing structure in accordance with claim 21 in which
said fitment includes a hollow base that defines at least a portion of said dispensing passage through said fitment; ✓

said fitment hollow base has two lateral ends and defines two generally oppositely facing sidewalls which converge and terminate at each end of said two lateral ends, ✓

B1
each said sidewall defines an exterior surface portion sealingly secured to one of said web portions along said opening; ✓

said fitment includes a spout that (1) extends from said hollow base, and (2) defines a portion of said dispensing passage; ✓

said fitment spout has an outer annular end; and ✓

said dispensing package includes a membrane that is releasably secured across said outer annular end to sealingly occlude the portion of said dispensing passage defined by said spout. ✓

RESPONSE TO ELECTION/RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Applicants hereby elect the Group IV claims 17-20, along with new claims 21-24 presented by amendment in this Response.

Applicants hereby elect the species shown in FIGS. 1-15 for prosecution on the merits.